

DALRYMPLE DIGEST

For the inaugural issue of Dalrymple Digest, an annual newsletter focusing on the graduate students of the University of Mississippi Arch Dalrymple III Department of History, we are very grateful to have an interview with the new Chair of our department, Professor Noell Howell Wilson, as our cover story:

As Chair of the Arch Dalrymple III Department of History, describe one of your main goals for the graduate program.

One of our core goals in the next 3-5 years will be to continue to increase the stipends we offer entering graduate students, and potentially current ones, so that they have sufficient funding to devote the summer months exclusively to research and writing.

If you could describe our department in two words, what would they be ?

Dynamic and evolving.

We are excited at the prospect of hosting a History graduate student conference next year. In what other ways would you encourage graduate students to engage with the History profession outside of the university?

I recommend approaching various online publications, such as the AHA blogs, about writing occasional essays, perusing weekly the website of the American Historical Association, submitting op-ed pieces to daily newspapers, and scrutinizing/revising Wikipedia entries addressing topics related to your research.



This year the U.S. News & World Report ranked our PhD program as # 37 in the nation, what in particular do you attribute this high ranking to and in what ways could the department seek to further improve?

In large part I attribute this stature to the previous chair, Joe Ward's, energetic advocacy of the Department during his tenure. But this ranking also reflects a growing commitment of our faculty to mentor Ph.D. students not only as scholars, but also as professionals in the academy who land tenure track jobs and convert their Ph.D. theses into books. With the generous Dalrymple funds, moving forward we should be able to more fully support graduate research, shortening the time to completion of the Ph.D.

What key advice would you give History graduate students as how best to succeed in both their graduate work and on the job market?

I think one of the most underappreciated skills for Ph.D. students is networking – both among peers and senior faculty -- which builds a community of potential conference panelists, reference letter writers, and research collaborators. The discipline of History generally rewards solitary intellectual activity, but professional positions in the field result from strong interpersonal skills and confidence engaging in scholarly debate with historians you might have never met. To cultivate these skills I recommend (1) presenting at conferences as often as possible and (2) introducing yourself to 2 peers and 2 more senior scholars at each of these events. Try #2 in particular for the next academic year, and then send me an e-mail to share your thoughts!

Last year the department began a Professionalization class for second semester PhD students, to help explain the job market and the activities involved in becoming a professional historian. Have you considered further ways in which the department could help guide graduate students through the hurdles of funding, fellowships, teaching and entering the job market?

In addition to encouraging all graduate students to meet candidates for tenure track jobs, attend their job talks and participate in campus visit receptions, we have begun to discuss informal “lunch and learn” conversations with faculty in addition to the professionalization seminars and faculty observations/evaluations of graduate teaching. On this point, too, I encourage all graduate students to send me their best ideas.

As graduate students in the department, we were excited by the launching of our own page this year on the department website. How much importance would you place on graduate students having a visible professional online presence in terms of developing professional relationships and finding job opportunities?

As we all know, virtual networking is as important, if not more so, than person-to-person contact, so a visible digital presence is key. I am grateful to the graduate student association for spearheading this portion of our webpage and hope that you will continue to monitor it by the semester so that the information is always current.

Public history is an increasingly “hot topic,” especially within the realm of U.S. History. Do you envisage the department offering graduate students opportunities or classes to engage with public history in the future?

Given the emerging interests of several of our faculty and graduate students, this is an area of study that the Department will explore introducing to the curriculum in the next couple of years. Just recently, we approved adding a History Internship course to our undergraduate offerings, and this class will be an important starting point for expanding the graduate curriculum. I encourage all graduate students to send me their thoughts on what sorts of courses in public history they would like to see!

NEWS FROM THE GRADUATE STUDENTS:

PUBLICATIONS:

- **Bryan Kessler:** “David Arthur Ferguson,” *The Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, Vol. 5 (Richmond: Library of Virginia).
- **Nicholas Mosvick:**
 - “Expand the draft to women – or repeal it? A long constitutional debate continues,” *The Conversation*, June 21, 2016 < <https://theconversation.com/expand-the-draft-to-women-or-repeal-it-a-long-constitutional-debate-continues-60505> >
 - “Courtroom Wars: Popular Constitutional Discourse, State Judges and Conscription in Civil War Pennsylvania,” *Faulkner Law Review*. Pending.
- **Laura Smith:**
 - ““Now let him enforce it”: The long history of the imperial presidency,” *History@Work*, March 27, 2017, National Council for Public History < <http://ncph.org/history-at-work/now-let-him-enforce-it-the-long-history-of-the-imperial-presidency/> >
 - “At least as reliable as Andrew Jackson,” *The Daily Princetonian*, November 8, 2016, Princeton University < <http://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2016/11/at-least-as-reliable-as-andrew-jackson> >

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Fiona Foster:** “Scottish National War Memorial: Memory, Gender, and Identity.” Presented at Southern Historical Association's European History Section, St. Pete Beach, FL., November 2016.
- **Jeffrey Glossner:** “Poor Whites, Slave Insurrections, and the Social Order: Black and White Interaction and the Specter of Rebellion in the Antebellum South.” Presented at History Graduate Student Association Conference, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, L.A., March 2017.
- **Justin Isaac Rogers:**
 - “The Making of a Southern Confluence: Religious and Racial Adaptation among Chickasaw, Enslaved, and White People in the Mississippi Hills, 1825-1861,” *Southeastern Indians in Unexpected Places: Native American History in the Nineteenth-Century American South and Southwest*. Presented at Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, St. Pete Beach, F.L., November 2016. (Co-organized this panel).
 - “‘Plum Sanctified’: Enslaved Women and Religious Life in North Mississippi, 1820s-1860s.” Presented at *Claiming Histories: Slavery and Remembrance in North Mississippi*, Rust College, Holly Springs, M.S., October 2016.
 - “Making Slavery in the Mississippi Hills: Chickasaw Slaveholders, Race, Religion, and Gender, 1810s-1840s,” Presented at University of Mississippi, J.D. Williams Library, Archives and Special Collections, Fall 2016 Lecture Series, October 2016.
 - “Drawing the Color Line(s): Race, Religion, and Chickasaw Slaveholding in Antebellum Mississippi,” *The Peculiar Institution in the Native South*. Presented at 38th Annual Meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, New Haven, C.T., July 2016.
- **Laura Smith:**
 - “Maine morality: Henry Clay and the Presidential Election of 1844 through the lens of *The Daily Argus* of Portland, Maine.” Presented at New England Historical Association Conference (NEHA) at Rivier University, October 2016.
 - “The History of U.S. Presidential Elections: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.” Presented at University of Mississippi. Invited to be panel member for special University of Mississippi History Club and Phi Alpha Theta lecture, October 2016.



- **Thomas Stephens:** “Apes, Blücher, and Kaiser Willy: German ‘Barbarism’ in British Children’s Literature, 1914-1918.” *Space Between Society 2017 Conference: Memory and Prophecy in the Space Between, 1914-45*. Presented at University of Mississippi, May 2017.
- **Jeffrey Washburn:** “‘The soil and climate here is well adapted’: Chickasaw Country During the Plan for Civilization.” Presented at the American Society for Ethnohistory Annual Conference, November 2016. Organized panel: “Landscapes of Sovereignty: Change and Persistence in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Native South.”
- **Amanda Williams:**
 - “Mothers in the Future: The Abortion Procedure, Communist Morality, and Housing in Soviet Russia, 1955 – 1980.” Presented at Midwest Slavic Conference, Columbus, O.H., April 2017.
 - “Reproductive Politics: State Power, Propaganda, and Popular Society in Khrushchev’s Russia.” Presented at University of Alabama Graduate Student Association Power and Struggle Conference, Tuscaloosa, A.L., October 2016.



FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS:

- **Abdulrahman Ajibola:** Ventress Graduate Summer Fellowship, University of Mississippi.
- **Kristin Bouldin:**
 - Spring 2017 Graduate School Research Fellowship, University of Mississippi.
 - Fall 2016 received \$600 Dissertation Research Scholarship from the National Society of Colonial Dames.
- **Chet Bush:** Ventress Graduate Summer Fellowship, University of Mississippi.
- **Monica Campbell:** Arch Dalrymple III Graduate Student Funding for summer research.
- **Fiona Foster:** May 2017 received an "Achieve the Dream OER Grant" to develop an OER Course for Western Civilizations II.
- **Bryan Kessler:**
 - Summer 2017 Graduate School Research Assistantship, University of Mississippi.
 - Fall 2016 Arch Dalrymple III Research Fellowship, University of Mississippi.
 - Summer and Fall 2016 Arch Dalrymple III Research Grant, University of Mississippi.
 - Summer 2016 Graduate Student Council Research Grant, University of Mississippi.

- **Beth Kruse:** Ventress Graduate Summer Fellowship, University of Mississippi.
- **Andrew Marion:** Ventress Graduate Summer Fellowship, University of Mississippi.
- **Nicholas Mosvick:**
 - Spring 2017 Graduate School Spring Fellowship, University of Mississippi.
 - Fall 2016 McMinn Fellow for the Center for Civil War Research, University of Mississippi.
- **Justin Isaac Rogers:**
 - Summer Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College and University Teachers, "On Native Grounds: Studies of Native American Histories and the Land," in residence at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., June 12-June 30, 2017.
 - Research Associate, "Two Hundred Years of the Arts in Mississippi," Mississippi Arts Commission, 2016.
 - Travel Grant, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Summer 2016.
- **Summer Smith:** Ventress Graduate Summer Fellowship, University of Mississippi.
- **Jemar Tisby:** Ventress Graduate Summer Fellowship, University of Mississippi.
- **Jeffrey Washburn:** 2017 Phillips Fund Grant for Native American Research from the American Philosophical Society.
- **Amanda Williams:** Assistantship from the University of Illinois' Russian, East European, Eurasian Center.

OTHER NEWS:

- **Fiona Foster:** Became an Executive Committee Member for the Scottish History Network as of January 2017.
- **Bryan Kessler:**
 - Served as Senator, Graduate Student Council, University of Mississippi, 2016-2017.
 - Served as Executive Board Officer, History Graduate Association, University of Mississippi, 2016-2017.
- **Eric Rexroat:** Officially passed his comprehensive exams with distinction, (April 2017).

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUANDS!

Chet Bush, MA

Shelby Carmichael, MA

Robert Harrison, MA

Sarah Parrish, MA

Jamie Sessions, MA

Travis Jaquess, PhD

Mahima Manchanda, PhD

Stella Lindsay Prewitt, PhD





I hope you have enjoyed this inaugural issue of *Dalrymple Digest*, a newsletter celebrating the achievements of the History graduate students of the Arch Dalrymple III Department of History over the past academic year. If you would like to e-mail any of the graduate students, that information can be found on the “Graduate Students” tab on the Arch Dalrymple III Department of History website.

Created by Laura Smith and the
History Graduate Association
